

## MINUTES

### COUNCIL-MANAGER BRIEFING

October 25, 2010

The Council-Manager Briefing was called to order by Mayor Ronald A. D'Epifanio at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Municipal Building, 5350 Pleasant Avenue. The following Councilmembers were present: Marty Judd, Mike Oler, Terry Senger, Tim Abbott, and Tim Meyers. Staff present: Don Bennett, Mike Dickey, Angie Johns, Art Pizzano, Dennis Stuckey, John Clemmons, and Dave Butsch

#### Countywide Siren Policy

Butler County Emergency Management Agency Director Jeff Galloway briefly discussed a weather alert that was sent out earlier today. He explained the EMA Board last month adopted a county-wide siren policy and now they are rolling it out to all the city and township agencies that have sirens. Mr. Galloway explained there are 89 sirens located in Butler County, made by several manufacturers including Federal and Whelen. He stated some of them date back as old as fourteen years old. He further stated most of the people that own them have no maintenance program on their sirens. He explained the battery needs replaced every three years. Mr. Galloway displayed a map with the location of the sirens indicated. Mr. Galloway discussed these sirens are meant to be outdoor sirens, not to be heard in the house. He explained there are eight different dispatch centers that set off the sirens of which seven are in Butler County and the one for Ross Township is set off by Hamilton County. Mr. Galloway briefly listed the different Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for each township and city in Butler County. He explained the county-wide policy will read that sirens will be set off for a tornado warning when Butler County is put under one; if there is an indicated tornado on Doppler Radar; credible information from Public Safety Agency or civilian; by order of the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Sheriff, Emergency Management Director or their designee; and if there is a city ordinance or township policy. He discussed the three times the sirens would have been set off this year if the county-wide policy would have been in place. Mr. Galloway explained all the PSAPs will notify each other when they are activating their sirens and when the sirens have begin and other others will begin setting theirs off as well. He further commented EMA monitors the BC Calling channel as well. Mr. Galloway explained this will not mirror Hamilton County policy; sirens will only be set off for a tornado warning. He stated once adopted there will be a county-wide mass media campaign to explain why this policy is going into place. Mr. Galloway discussed the three phases of the Tornado Siren Committee. He explained phase 1 is to develop a county-wide tornado siren activation policy, phase 2 is to have county-wide maintenance plan and agreement in place and phase 3 is finding funding and grants for additional sirens county-wide. He discussed several severe weather occurrences dating from June 1951 through August 15, 2010 which explained why the county could not be zoned off. City Manager Pizzano commented on the importance of making the differential between Hamilton County and Butler County Policies clear to people in this part of the County when making the press release. Mr. Galloway discussed an F4 tornado that was on the ground for 25 miles in Murfreesboro, Tennessee in which there were three fatalities and 51 injuries. He explained they have sirens in Murfreesboro that are part of their county-wide policy, and everyone was warned ahead of time. Mr. Galloway commented they are looking for each city and township that own sirens to adopt the county wide siren policy. He commented hopefully the mass media campaign will begin after the first of the year. Fire Chief Don Bennett commented he thought it would be in our best interest to support this policy. Mr. Galloway commented the test schedule will still be the first Wednesday of the month at 12:00 PM. He explained they should take occupancy at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) in mid November.

Chief Mike Dickey explained the county is paying for the maintenance of the radios per the contract and is a non-issue.

#### Adjournment

The Council/Manager Briefing adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Johns  
Clerk of Council